

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF, RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: INTERNAL TALKS; SMITH INTERVIEW

1. THE DECEMBER 14 INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS IN SALISBURY REPORTEDLY LASTED THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS-- THE LONGEST SINCE THE TALKS BEGAN A WEEK AGO. AN AGREED STATEMENT SAID THE FOUR DELEGATIONS MADE PROGRESS ON PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS. SENATOR CHEIF KAYISA NDIWENI CHAIRED THE SESSION. ACCORDING TO ONE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORT FROM SALISBURY, BLACK NATIONALIST SOURCES " CLOSE TO THE TALKS" SAID THAT THE BLACK LEADERS NOW BELIEVE THAT SMITH SINCERELY SEEKS A GENUINE MAJORITY RULE SETTLEMENT AND WANTS TO STEP DOWN FROM HIS PRESENT PORISION IN POLITICS. AREAS OF AGREEMENT YESTERDAY REPORTEDLY INCLUDED THE VOTING AGE OF 18, A JUSTICIABLE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATION. IAN BLACK, HOWEVER, WHO HAS BEEN FILING OPTIMISTIC REPORTS
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TO DATE, SAID IN HIS REPORT OF YESTERDAY'S MEETING THAT RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAD DESCRIBED THE PROGRESS AS " VERY SLIGHT".

2. MEANWHILE, THE RAND DAILY MAIL OF DECEMBER 15 CARRIES A LONG INTERVIEW BY ANTHONY RYDER WITH SMITH. RYDER REPORTED THAT SMITH SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE " AS

YET THERE ARE ANY SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WHICH CANNOT WITH REASON ON ALL SIDES BE OVERCOME." HE HOPED THAT WITHIN " A COUPLE OF MONTHS WE COULD HAVE SOME MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH TO INDICATE CLEARLY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER HOW WE ARE GOING."

3. ACCORDING TO RYDER, SMITH SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE BRITISH AND AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT WAS A "SINE QUA NON" FOR SUCCESS. " THE WHITE PAPER AS GIVEN TO US BY THE BRITISH IS DEAD"; THE MAJOR SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE BRITISH HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE " COLOSSAL BLUNDERS",

4. SMITH TOLD RYDER THAT IF A SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED WHICH CLEARLY HAD THE SUPPORT OF 85 PERCENT OF BLACK RHODESIANS AND ALSO THE SUPPORT OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHITE RHODESIANS, HE COULD NOT THINK OF ANY LOGICAL REASON WHY THIS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE WORLD RECOGNITION. IN THE END HE WOULD HOPE FOR LEGISLATION THROUGH THE HOUSE OF COMMONS APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT, BUT IF THE BRITISH DID NOT PLAY THEIR PART, RHODESIA " WOULD LOSE VERY LITTLE."

5. SMITH REPORTEDLY AGAIN DESCRIBED NKOMO AS A " SHREWD OLD POLITICAL BIRD", AND SAID THERE WAS AN EVEN CHANCE NKOMO WOULD CONCLUDE THAT HE WAS LOSING SUPPORT AND WOULD BE " TEMPTED TO TRY TO GET ON THE FIELD." SMITH
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SAID THAT HE WOULD WELCOME " NEUTRAL REFEREES OR OBSERVERS" FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS.

6. ASKED BY RYDER IF HE MIGHT SEEK A SEAT IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT, ENEN IN A MINORITY ROLE, SMITH SAID THAT IT WOULD BE " ILLOGICAL TO SAY I'M NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANOTHER SMALLER CONTRIBUTION." HE INDICATED ANY SUCH DECISION WOULD BE MADE LATER AND REEMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO GET OUT OF POLITICS AFTER 30 YEARS.
" THAT IS ENOUGH FOR ANYBODY." BOWDLER

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